

REMARKS

Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 10-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 31 and 32 are pending. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 7, 9-14, 19 and 21-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the case claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has required formal drawings. Formal drawings are attached hereto.

Claims 1-3, 6, 15, 18, 27, and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roland T. Chin (hereinafter Roland). The Examiner stated essentially that Roland teaches or suggests all the limitations of claims 1-3, 6, 15, 18, 27, and 29.

Claims 3 and 15 have been amended to including the allowable limitations of claims 9 and 21, respectively and further the limitations of intervening claims 6 and 18. Claims 1, 2, 6, 18, 27 and 29 have been cancelled. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 16, 17, 20, 28, and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roland, and further in view of Rhoads (U.S. Patent Application No.

2004/0005093). The Examiner stated essentially that the combined teachings of Roland and Rhoads teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 16, 17, 20, 28, and 30.


Claims 4, 5 and 8 depend from claim 3. Claims 16, 17, and 20 depend from claim 15. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for the respective independent claims. Claims 2, 28 and 30 have been cancelled. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New claims 31 and 32 include the limitations of claims 3, 4 and 7, and claims 15, 16 and 19, respectively. Claims 7 and 19 include allowable subject matter. Therefore, new claims 31 and 32 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

For the forgoing reasons, the application, including claims 3-5, 7, 8, 10-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 31 and 32, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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